

to more than 1½ million Armenian men, women, and children at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. As we honor the memory of these individuals, we renew our commitment that the world will never forget their tragic suffering.

Between 1915 and 1923, officials of the Ottoman Empire carried out a systematic campaign to eradicate all Armenians. Innocent Armenians were murdered and those who survived were forced to flee their homeland and live in exile. Many of the survivors later made their way to the United States.

The campaign of genocide began with the execution of the Armenian leadership and proceeded with the targeting of the entire male population. It continued with the persecution of Armenian women, children, and the elderly, who were sent on forced death marches to be raped, tortured, and murdered. During this brutal 8-year period, over 1½ million Armenians died through massacres, disease, and starvation.

Unfortunately, even today, the Armenian people face continued violence and ethnic hatred. Since 1988, the conflict between Christian Armenians and Moslem Azerbaijanis for control of Nagorno-Karabakh has resulted in over 10,000 deaths and almost 1½ million refugees. Despite the May 1994 cease-fire and the armistice agreement signed the following month, a permanent solution to the conflict has yet to be found.

The United States has provided substantial humanitarian assistance to Armenia, but it has become increasingly difficult to deliver this assistance because of the continuing blockade by the Governments of Azerbaijan and Turkey. As a result, Armenia suffers from a long-standing shortage of food, fuel, and medical supplies. We need to redouble our efforts to end the current crisis and promote peaceful development of the region.

I commend the tireless efforts of the Armenian-Americans for their efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict, and for keeping their Armenian heritage alive in the United States.

As we commemorate and honor the victims of the Armenian genocide, we renew our commitment to combat ethnic hatred and to end injustice and conflicts throughout the world.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, today marks the 80th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, the first great crime of the 20th century. Over 1½ million Armenians were murdered by the Ottoman Empire and its successor between 1915 and 1923. Many in this country and throughout the world still mourn the relatives they lost in the Armenian genocide. It is important that we take a moment to remember this terrible crime against humanity.

The 20th century has been not only a century of mass murder, but also a century of culpability in which the na-

tions of the world have failed to act to prevent or halt genocide. The slaughter of Armenians was ignored. The international community was too slow to act when the Nazis began killing Jews and Gypsies. Our response to the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Rwanda has been feeble.

However, on this day, we not only mourn the losses sustained by Armenia, we also celebrate the contributions of Armenians to our civilization and culture, such as fellow New Jerseyans Christopher Babigian, a prominent physician and community leader, Krikor Zadourian, a leading businessman and community leader, and Haigaz Grigorian, a community leader active in relief work in Armenia, to name a few. Indeed, the American-Armenian community has done much to enrich New Jersey and the United States.

Armenia itself, Mr. President, has now reemerged as an independent state in which Armenians can control their own destiny for the first time in centuries. Tragically, though, Armenia is a country which has thus far been forced to devote its resources to war rather than to building a peaceful, prosperous, life for its people.

It is our responsibility to educate future generations about the dangers of intolerance and to fulfill the pledge of "never again." Remembering the horrors of 1915-23 is one way of rousing ourselves to give meaning to this pledge.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating one of this century's most tragic events. Today marks the 80th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-23, recognized by some as the first genocide of this century when 1½ million Armenian men, women, and children lost their lives as a result of the brutal massacres and wholesale deportations conducted by the Turkish Ottoman rulers.

Mr. President, on this day 80 years ago began one of the great martyrdoms of modern history, a systematic and methodical campaign to exterminate an innocent people. An entire nation was uprooted from its homeland scattering thousands of survivors around the world. Thus this human tragedy, having left few families unaffected, and its anniversary have special meaning to Armenians everywhere.

The 1915 genocide represented the culmination of decades, and the development of an insidious pattern, of persecution against the Armenian community living in the Ottoman Empire. During the period 1894-96 and again in 1909, thousands of Armenians lost their lives at the hands of their ruthless persecutors. On April 24, 1915, Armenian intellectual, religious, and political leaders, were rounded up by Ottoman authorities, taken to remote parts of Anatolia and murdered.

At least 250,000 Armenians serving in the Ottoman Army were expelled and forced into labor battalions where executions and starvation were common. Men, women, and children were deported from their villages and obliged to march for weeks in the Syrian Desert where a majority of them perished.

There was no shortage of contemporaneous newspaper accounts in the United States of the Ottoman Turkish atrocities—a simple review of headlines appearing in the New York Times in mid-1915 yields the following: "Wholesale Massacres of Armenians by Turks," "Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed," "800,000 Armenians Counted Destroyed," "Thousands Protest Armenian Murders." In fact, through a congressionally chartered organization called Near East Relief, Americans contributed \$113 million in humanitarian assistance from 1915 to 1930 to help the survivors. In addition, 132,000 Armenian orphans were adopted in this country.

Perhaps America's most notable observer of the Armenian genocide was its distinguished ambassador to Turkey at the time, Henry Morgenthau, who published an article in the Red Cross magazine in 1918 describing the wide-scale and deliberate orchestration of Ottoman atrocities against the Armenian people as "the Greatest Horror in History." Morgenthau has also written the following about the Armenian genocide in this now famous passage:

Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted people. I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915. The killing of the Armenian people was accompanied by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art and of history, in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization some three thousand years old.

Indeed, Morgenthau and other diplomats who witnessed and reported in great detail the enormous devastation of the Armenian community by the Ottomans would be astonished to learn today that the abundant evidence they collected, much of which is held in our own National Archives, and the testimony of survivors who are still with us, continue to be challenged without a trace of contrition. Despite the irrefutability of the documentation and testimony, including extensive accounts from survivors, witnesses, and historians, there are those who refuse to come to grips with the past, blame the victims, and deride reconciliation.

Remembrance and understanding, however, are universal imperatives essential to all decent people an decent